



COUNTY OF ALBANY  
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
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April 29, 2026

Honorable Joanne Cunningham  
Chairwoman  
Albany County Legislature  
112 State Street  
Room 710  
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Chairwoman Cunningham,

The Department of Mental Health respectfully requests permission to award \$262,900 in Opioid Settlement Funding to Addiction Care Centers of Albany (ACCA) for the purpose of providing school-based prevention services at three Albany County middle schools: Voorheesville, Berne-Knox-Westerlo and the Albany Leadership Academy. This project was selected for funding through a competitive grant application process and will be implemented over the next two (2) years.

ACCA will use these funds to implement the SMART Talk: Cannabis Awareness and Prevention curriculum, an evidence-based initiative developed by Stanford Medicine University. This initiative will help fill a gap in prevention services; while ACCA has a significant presence in elementary and high schools, these middle schools do not currently have the same prevention services.

Feel free to contact me or Adam Kirkman if you have any questions concerning this request.

Sincerely,

  
Stephen Giordano, Ph.D.  
Director

cc: Hon. Dennis A. Feeney, Majority Leader  
Hon. Frank A. Mauriello, Minority Leader  
Rebekah Kennedy, Majority Counsel  
James Curran, Minority Counsel